



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority

Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, Heather Bond Somers, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Somers, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Schmidt

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

II. Approval of Minutes

2012-0155

Approval of Minutes (Groton Resource Recovery Authority)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GROTON RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Groton Resource Recovery Authority meeting of April 3, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

with the following correction: page 1, under 2011-0149 Transfer Station Rates, paragraph 1, change the second sentence to read He suggested eliminating the day pass and increasing the per trip charge to \$10.00, with \$30 for oversized vehicles..."

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Somers, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Johnson

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Communications

None.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

2011-0149

Transfer Station Rates

TRANSFER STATION RATES

Discussed

John Carrington, assistant Director of Public Works, noted that staff approached the Council in April with modified transfer station rates. Councilors had suggested modifications, but staff has not had enough time to investigate the hangtag issue sufficiently in order to have any changes in place for July 1st. Rates for brush were a concern and are proposed to be lowered. Staff recommends 1) keeping the annual permit at \$65; 2) \$20 for a bulky waste day pass with unlimited trips that day; 3) \$60 bulky waste trip (one entrance only) for large vehicles and trailers; 4) \$20 per appliance or mattress; 5) \$10 per electronic unit greater than 7 units; 6) \$5 brush disposal per

pickup truck or small trailer; 7) \$10 for brush disposal per small dump truck or large trailer; and 8) no charge for small loads of brush.

Councilor Peruzzotti arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Somers, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Schmidt

Discussed

Councilor Flax expressed disappointment that there wasn't enough time to provide the information that was requested in April. He does not understand why a punched hang tag is difficult to implement. Mr. Schneider noted that staff has been compiling information on the number of uses per hang tag in an attempt to provide all of the information so that the Authority can make a decision. He noted that his department has been affected by the loss of positions and if he is not prioritizing work correctly, then he needs to know that.

Mr. Carrington clarified that staff has not had time to tabulate the number of uses per hang tag because that information is not readily available; it requires manually going through daily log sheets to compile the information.

Councilor Streeter noted that there are two or three employees at the transfer station and punching hang tags would be time consuming. He reminded Councilor Flax that staff has been involved in budget preparation for the last 60 days and the Town Council cut Public Works' budget.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, to adopt staff's recommendations for transfer station fees.

Councilor O'Beirne noted that approximately 1 out of 15 households in Groton has an annual permit. He can support an increase in the annual fee, but not limiting the number of trips. Councilor Johnson feels the brush proposal will decrease revenue. Mr. Carrington agreed, but he stated that he has not heard from the Authority that its goal is to increase revenues. He asked if the Town has considered selling mulch instead of giving it away and Mr. Carrington stated that the Town creates more than it gives away.

Councilor Peruzzotti clarified that annual permits will not cover brush disposal. She feels that an increase in revenues was definitely a goal discussed and she supports increasing the annual fee. She suggested that staff establish a tracking system for the hang tags so that the information is available when this issue is considered again the future.

Councilor Watson expressed concern with paying to drop off brush that is turned into mulch that can then be picked up for free.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, to amend the motion to eliminate staff recommendations 6, 7, and 8 and increase the annual permit to \$80.

Councilor Flax noted that the reason for limiting the number of trips for an annual permit was to eliminate abuse by contractors. He does not feel that punching a hang tag will add significant time to the process. Councilor Flax feels the day pass is too much and would support increasing the annual permit to \$100 and keeping the per trip pass at \$10. Councilor Antipas noted that the Authority is just guessing at the impacts of changing the rates and should just establish rates and then monitor what happens.

The Town Manager noted that if the annual fee is raised to \$80, the change will not take effect until later in July since a 60 day notice is required to change the fees. This means the Town will be selling annual permits at two different rates in July.

Councilor Peruzzotti expressed a preference for making the change now.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne to amend the motion to keep the annual permit at \$65.00.
There was no second.

The first amendment to the motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 6 - Councilor Antipas, Councilor O'Beirne, Councilor Peruzzotti, Mayor Somers, Councilor Streeter, Councilor Watson

Opposed: 2 - Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Antipas, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Streeter, Councilor Somers and Councilor Watson

Opposed: 2 - Councilor Flax and Councilor Johnson

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.